1/6/71

Dear Howard,

Thanks for the letters of the 5th and the abundant clippings, which I've scanned. I'll save them for when I'm waiting for Lil. Read four that way tonight. Read the letters in the a.m., on getting home. Glad the prompting on JFk helped. There is much more than the NYTimes 11/16 on that. I have mislaid one of my files on it, flippantly labelled escallatio. But there was the announcement of a restudy, I think about 10/20/63, and there was the anouncement of the restudy of the restudy about 12/22/63. I do have these things. But they give a special meaning to the ti ing.

I don't think you have a terrible knowledge of history(current), as you put it. You were simply of an age when you had to be unaware ix and there is no honesty in the teaching of it, for the teachers could not survive it if they understood it. As you have have seen, the rhightest present themselves as not understanding, and when they were part of it, who can criticize the humble lehrer. O the wall speeech, suppose we compromise, eliminate turning point and beginning of his education, and substtitute the beginning, limited as it was, of his understanding?

If you doubt my interpretation of the presence of our troops in Europe at the beginning to be to prevent revolutionary change, do you for a moment that the most desolated country in the world, the one with by far the heaviest human loses, was in a position to launch any adventure, even if it so desired? Was Germany about to invade anybody? Italy? Roumania?Poland? Czech? Hungary? Spain? What else could it possibly have been? And since then, a means of keeping things afire and the war-economy going. The domestic change to which I referred was toward a socialist form in each case, for in each country it was possible. We stole the elections (rather, bought bought) in Italy. The Communist Party was by far the strongest in France, and then the most respected. Under the parliamentary system, it should have formed the gov't. Etc. Just look how far to the left, by pre-war standards, even England went, with public ownership of so much basic industry. Even there we intervened heavily. Did you know that under Bismarck, the Germans had more social benefits that we had in FDR's day? No, there was no other reason.

I'm trying to reform my personal habits. Because I can't help getting up early an and usually can't return to sleep, I'm going to try and go to sleep earlier. Will add in the a.m....Easy. Up to early. Did send you copy of my 1/4/71 to Kleindienst. I used some of the blue carbon you gave me in writing that letter, and when I sent copies copies out, I typed the initial on the bottom. Enclosed copy shows. I didn't make the earned crack about "doing research" simply because the law does require them to provide lists, I'm pretty sure. Meanwhile, this would seem to indicate that a fat letter did not reach you. I have no idea what else was in it.....Nichols decision: he did lose, and I hope he doesn't carry it any further for a combination of reasons. He had a high-priced, smooth-writing law firm whose basic research was inadequate and he, apparently, had done none. If and when you see it, as you will, compare what they have for example, on what constitutes a "record" under the law and what I have in 2569-70, and I'm not a lawyer and that work had the benefit of no lawyerss touch or even advice.John included too many things in one suit and thus made it possible to lose on all whereas some have the feeling he might have one on parts. I do not, after reading the decision, which concedes it is the normal and traditional right of government to suppress. If it can be used as precedent, it is quite hurtful. I think perhaps it cannot, which doesn't mean Justice won't try....There was much too much of John's strange and dominating ego in it and to much errpneous bullheadedness. I think from my own records there is little doubt that everything was taken from the Navy to begin with, that they really do not have a single copy of any of the records.

Here I am reminded of the one good thing I recall from it, that the judge held an FOI suit could be filed vs the US Govt. He was wrong, there is contrary and binding decision, but it does tend to have a slightly broadening influence, for there are, without xxxx doubt, cases where one can't know which agency to sue. He had a simple way around this, but neither he nor his lawyers read the AG's memo on the law. Worried as I am about anything he is connected with and more, about specifics of each of his suits (I wasted an enormous and unthanked labor on his first, enough to have written a book in that time), I wasn't about to help him get into coirt and there get a binding and damaging decision after full hearing. If they didn't know that, they didn't know enough to go to court to begin with. But these receipts were among the things I had shown John. I expedt no more contact with him. I did come accross something sI felt he couldn't do any damage with, sent it to him, and didn't even get an acknowledgement. When he stole work Dick and I did jointly and Dick loaned him and work I showed him him in confidence and copyrighted both in his name, he told me all I need know. But you should have a copy of the decision for your files. If Dick doesn't have one for you you, I'll lend you mine. I'm about out of paper and can't think of replenishing now. The advance on the book is two weeks late, my quarterly debt interest is due today (I had to go to the bank and get an extension yesterday), and when we are close to broke broke while Lil has her only employmentof the year, about to end, need I say more of our financial condition?...I did buy two sets of the declassified. I'll keep on swriatim and will file the other by subject. There are five CDs not in their lists, which goes back to my letter of 1/4 to Kleindienst, as you can see....Which goes back to the clippings from the Phila papers on the Media raid and I remind you they do contain what did not appear here and thus are helpful. Had a long talk with the woman who wrote one of the stories they got from the Wash Post. Perhaps, if you can call him, Kenyatta may be interested in another aspect, which I'll be glad to give him, the reqriting of raw field reports in DC to make them say the opposite of what they really do (Oswald/Osborne/Jones Print/ handbills).

John's approach on the pix and X-rays was do med. I have the only viable one, and I I feel an adequate foundation must be laid in court first, as you know. As time and the slight fees permit, I'm attempting it. The clothing/pix suit is one. Another is on the memo of transfer. Perhaps then the panel approach, which you understand, and addresses all on an entirely different and already-adjudicated ground.

Write Mary Ferrell, 4406 Holland, Dallas 75219 on the tapes and tell her you are a young friend of mine, that I told you to write, tell her what you have and offer any that she may not have, and ask her for what she has that you do not. She has that tape, and it is true, there was a reporter, as I remember on the tracks near the knoll, and he did get fired. But that doesnit mean this and the UPI tapes are identical. I have the Bell stuff, have for six years. You can check when you are here to see if I have what you do not. UPI did make a record. I have a friend who has one and has been promising me dub. I'll ask for two or you can use mine. But I think you interpret the Bell reppobt rather than quote it. My recollection is that it was phrased in terms of peaks rather than shots. By the way, you can be certain that the Archives has other versions of that tape. I pnce blundered into two whole carts of boxes of tapes being dubbed! They also should have a n inventory of these. If you ask for it, please, when you can, make me a copy. I am thinking of not your buying it but of using other facilities. If, as I suspect, it is long, let me have it and I'll have copies made for several. If you want it. This is separate from what I have in WWII

Fingerptint reports are among the more difficult to obtain, but under the law, if you can get a fair judge, they can, under some circumstances, be available. I loaned my copies of decisions to someone who hasn't returned them. The prevailing

ones here I would thing are American Mail Lines v Gulick and Wellford v somebody in the government(this a Baltimore case I do have). The first says that even mention, which is less than partial use, vitiates the exemption, the second that scientific tests can't be withheld, nor can they be misclassified to fake applicability of the exemption. I regard that exemption as proper, but the misuse as improper. I agree that your interpretation, "no prints of value" could mean "no prints of Oswald's", and,as you will see, in FRAME-UP (where I can save you $$$ if you want) I go into this with the "Ray" windowsill. I think it likely that so weatherbeaten a sill, unless freshly painted or enamelled, would not likely held any. I am onto them about the same thing in N.O. (and I am in a position to file a suit about this and about the withheld pictures, of which you have my correspondence and my letters to Boggs, which Dick will get via Sylvia for forwarding to GRS).

Dick Laos has written me in the same laudatory manner about Sylvia's piece on Givens. I do not recall her having sent me a copy. I'll check now. If she id, I have misfiled it, I think I'd have remembered what you and Dick describe as you do. I'll ask ask her sometime. Hers ar e rare and penetrating analytical powers when her emptions do not get mixed up with them (as with whom do they not sometimes?). Because of her knowledge of my (original) work on Arnold, I'm surprised she didn't send me this. Also, I do go into the rest of it, as best I could without access to the Archives at the time I wrote WHITEWASH, when there was no access, on Oswald proving he was on the first floor.

Guess this covers all your questions. The foregoing is the beginning of my celebration of my 58th birthday. This morning, in body, I feel that age, but I guess my mind and attitudes remain younger. I had a fine surprise last night, a phone call from a California friend, a reporter, who is giving me a tiny casette recorder for my trips, of which there should be more but of which there is no immediate prospect, those on whose behalf I should make them being reluctant to use the money this way and I not having it. But w ithout the trips I'll have good use for it, as when I can dub out short sections of interviews and other tapes and put them on individual, timed casettes, for radio and TV use, for backgrounding reporters, etc. (Two major media elements have assigned F-U to their D.J reporters).

No response from Ali, who seems more interested in spending $21,000 gold-plating his new 1971 Toronado. Man of love and deep principle. I've made partial advances in turning other blacks on, which isprogress. Please nag your school bookstore to stock the book, and refer not only to the PW review, but Fred Cook's in the current Saturday Review (which I'm getting but do not yet have). You might eveb call the guy on the Bulletin who does their reviews. He is an editor. I have spoken to him in the past, but when my then phone notebook was stolen in N.O. I lost his name and phone and do not remember it. Alsom the guy who does such things on WFLN, if you have time, to see if he'd do me by phone. Are there any talk shows remaining in Phila? I might be able to get there, for I'll have to be in Wilmington in the near future and can stay with my sister in Broomall. I'll have my car then. That's as far as I now drive. If you can locate Maury Levy, whose piece on Jack you sent me (perhaps through the mag, perhaps through WCAU), if he can help, he will. He is a very fine fellow, not too much older than you. With what publishers ordinarily do and and this one has not, this book would zing. It may yet. They have had to go back to press in two weeks, which is very good, but also wasteful, for they printed 5,000 instead of the promised 10,000, which isnstupid, because I insisted on an advance that that required 10,000 to recapture it. Thus they are wasting in needless press time ebough to send me to California, with stops. You see part of the depressing problem here. When Dick gets his copy, alsoeady sent, I hope he needles his college book-store with it....And this record without an ad, without a single promo arranged by the pub. Jerry P did most, and other friends and I the rest. Thanks, HW